

We claim:

1. A method for recovering a polypeptide comprising:
 - (a) exposing a composition comprising a polypeptide to a reagent which binds to, or modifies, the polypeptide, wherein the reagent is immobilized on a solid phase; and then
 - (b) passing an effluent comprising the polypeptide eluted from or modified by the immobilized reagent, and any reagent leached from the solid phase, through a filter bearing a charge which is opposite to the charge of the reagent in and at the pH of, the composition, so as to remove leached reagent from the effluent.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the charge characteristics of the polypeptide in the composition in step (b) are such that the polypeptide passes through the filter.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is positively charged.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the filter is negatively charged.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the effluent is passed directly in line through the filter.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the immobilized reagent is a protease.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the protease is pepsin.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the polypeptide exposed to the protease in step (a) is a precursor polypeptide and the protease removes a precursor domain from the polypeptide.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the precursor domain comprises a leucine zipper.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the polypeptide is an antibody.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the antibody is a F(ab')₂ fragment.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the antibody binds CD18.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the leucine zipper is a yeast GCN4 leucine zipper.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the precursor polypeptide is an anti-CD18 antibody having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 for the heavy chain, and SEQ ID NO 2 for the light chain.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase comprises controlled pore glass beads.

16. A method for recovering a polypeptide comprising removing a leached reagent from a composition comprising the polypeptide and the leached reagent by passing the composition through a filter bearing a charge opposite to that of the leached reagent at the pH of the composition, wherein the leached reagent was previously immobilized on a solid phase.

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